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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 001934

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION KUWAIT JUNE 19-21: IRAQ; TERRORISM.

1. SUMMARY: In a rare show of near-unanimity, Kuwaiti commentators joined together in near-total condemnation of the beheading of Paul Johnson and terror in general. Some still found a way to blame Zionism. And others cautioned the Kuwaiti government not to allow such a home-grown terror movement to blossom here: Dr. Shamlan Al-Issa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (6/19): "our youth were found to be involved in Jihad operations in Fallujah. Unless they get killed in Iraq, these new Jihadists will return to Kuwait and follow in the footsteps of their Saudi counterparts." END SUMMARY.

2. "Unaware"

Dr. Shamlan Al-Issa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (6/19): "How come the security authorities are not aware that our youth are actively involved in Jihad operations? Why does the Ministry of Interior claim that it is following the movements of terrorists when in fact it does not? We would have hoped that the security authorities learned the lessons of 9/11, and prior to that, about our youth who were involved in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Chechnya. However, no one seems to have learned their lesson. Instead, our youth were found to be involved in Jihad operations in Fallujah. Unless they get killed in Iraq, these new Jihadists will return to Kuwait and follow in the footsteps of their Saudi counterparts, while our government is 'extremely busy' in setting up pre-conditions for holding public concerts."

3. "Journey Of Tears"

Mohammed Musaed Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Qabas (6/19): "The way the United States was founded is identical to the way the Zionist entity was founded. In America, Native Americans were forcibly driven away from their homes. Israel in 2004 is doing the same thing by forcibly expelling Palestinians from the West Bank, east of Jerusalem and Gaza. According to author Muneer Al-Akesh, America's idea of exchanging a nation and a culture with another, through forcible evacuation and unjustified explanations, is in fact Israel's historical raison d'etre. While Sharon is in Palestine, Bush is in Iraq. There is no difference."

4. "Killing Is The Answer"

Khaled Al-Adwa wrote in independent Al-Watan (6/19): "The way Al-Zarqawi's group exclaimed the name of God while at the same time beheading the American captive was horrifying. Where was this group when the tyrant Saddam annihilated thousands of Kurds with chemical weapons? Yet another American hostage humiliatingly blindfolded and threatened with death within seventy-two hours. Can there be anything more distorting to Islam and to the culture of Muslims?"

5. "Democracy... Not Murder"

Mohammed Musaed Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Qabas (6/20): "There is popular Arab opposition toward the policies of the American administration in Palestine, opposition toward the occupation of Iraq and opposition toward establishing American military bases in Arab countries. This opposition is legitimate, because every citizen has a right to express himself as part of the democratic process. However, such opposition must not turn into murder. Killing innocent civilians, such as the American hostage Paul Johnson, who has been living in Saudi for the past ten years, is illegal and will not solve any problems. The terrorists who committed his murder must ask themselves if this would change the U.S.'s policy. The killers should have called for justice, freedom and democracy, instead of killing innocent people and damaging the way the world looks at us."

6. "Torture By Proxy... Civilization Or Ignobility"

Adel Al-Qassar wrote in independent Al-Qabas (6/20): "Because it would infringe upon its values of freedom and damage its democratic image, the United States resorted to her Middle Eastern allies to carry out the torture of people accused of terrorism. American interrogators admit they have employed the method of torture by proxy, claiming that grave consequences may ensue if it is perpetrated inside America. How humiliating for Arab leaders, who caved in at American pressure to implement political and economic reforms through the GMEI, to have become tools for perpetrating illegal deeds. America has found puppets, who open their prisons and fortresses so they can implant and express the concept of partnership verbatim."

7. "Terrorism Serves Zionism"

Faisal Abdel Aziz Al-Zamel wrote in independent Al-Anba (6/20):
"To justify the beheading of the American hostage in Saudi as a message intended to target foreigners is totally rejected. Despite our strong condemnation of such crimes, that does not mean we cannot denounce American support toward Zionism ... To combine these two issues only serves the enemies of our nation, and validates the West's unlimited support toward Israel. The criminal elements committing such atrocities in Iraq and Saudi are linked. They are guided by an evil plan carried out by criminals, and executed by nave persons who have caused damage to their religion and lives."

18. "Terrorism"

Rashed Al-Rada'an wrote in independent Al-Watan (6/21): "We want from the American press, which has been vilifying the Saudis for years as a society that keeps hatching terrorists, to carefully observe events in the Kingdom. The Saudis are making a great effort to eradicate terrorism. Since terrorism occurs in every country, it is incorrect to describe one half of a society, such as the Saudis, as exporters of terrorism. Because, if that were the case, then most of the terrorists are Europeans, as modern and ancient history can attest, beginning with Hitler, and ending with Castro and others who have committed genocide against their peoples."

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